

Message Text

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: FAO, WFC, UN, EAGR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL FOURTH SESSION
REF: ROME 1565

1. AS A PRELIMINARY REACTION, USG BELIEVES WALTERS
FOOD PLAN PROPOSAL PRESENTED PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTTEL MERITS
EXPLORATION. HOWEVER, MISSION SHOULD URGE WFC SECRETARIAT
TO REFRAIN FROM EITHER EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF ISSUE IN
JANUARY 31 MEETING OR FROM FIRM COMMITMENT TO PLACE
PROPOSAL ON AGENDA FOR MEXICO MEETING. PROPOSAL IS OF
SUFFICIENT COMPLEXITY AND IMPORTANCE TO REQUIRE CAREFUL
STUDY AND SHOULD BE FULLY ELABORATED AND VETTED WITH
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KEY WFC PARTICIPANTS IN ADVANCE OF PREPARATORY MEETING.
MOREOVER, SPONSORS' EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES OF
CGFPI, WHOSE RELEASE IS IMMINENT, IS LIKELY TO CONTAIN
RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE A DIRECT BEARING ON THE ISSUE.

2. IN ORDER TO ASSIST WASHINGTON AGENCIES IN THEIR
CONSIDERATION OF THE FOOD PLAN PROPOSAL, MISSION SHOULD

SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION PRIVATELY FROM WFC SECRETARIAT
ON FOLLOWING ISSUES- A) WHAT WFC SEES AS ITS ROLE IN
FOOD PLAN PROCESS. FYI: USG WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ASSIGNING
WFC OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES SUCH AS ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT FOR CONSULTANT AND HIS WORKING GROUP OR OPERATING
AS NEXUS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN DONORS AND RECIPIENTS..
HOWEVER, THERE WOULD BE A PLACE FOR COUNCIL TO ENCOURAGE
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH
WORKING GROUPS, TO MONITOR PERIODICALLY PROGRESS IN PLAN
PREPARATION, AND TO REVIEW COMPLETED PLANS AS MODELS.
B) WHETHER HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTANT MENTIONED, IF HE IS
NOT HOST COUNTRY NATIONAL, WOULD REMAIN IN-COUNTRY DURING
PREPARATION OF PLAN OR SIMPLY VISIT FROM TIME TO TIME.
THOUGH MORE PERMANENT PRESENCE WOULD IN MANY RESPECTS BE
PREFERABLE, HIS STATUS AND RELATIONSHIP TO UNDP RESIDENT
REPRESENTATIVE AND FAO COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE WOULD NEED
TO BE CAREFULLY DEFINED. IN EITHER CASE A SOURCE OF
FUNDING FOR HIS ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE DESIGNATED,
I.E., IBRD, FAO, UNDP, A COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE, OR THE
HOST GOVERNMENT.

3. USG SINCERELY HOPES PROGRESS IN IWC NEGOTIATIONS WILL
HAVE ADVANCED SUFFICIENTLY FAR THAT ISSUES RAISED IN
PARAGRAPH 8 WILL HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.

4. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED, I.E., FOOD AID, NUTRITION
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AND TRADE, ARE PRESENTED IN INSUFFICIENT DETAIL TO PERMIT
REACTION. MISSION SHOULD SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE
ISSUES.

5. USG AGENCIES WILL WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE
ABOVE AND OTHER ISSUES WITH DR. HANNAH DURING HIS VISIT
FEBRUARY 1-8, AND WILL BE CONTACTING HIS NEW YORK OFFICE
TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. VANCE

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